

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Otherwise, the status of the claims is unclear. The "Summary" portion of the Office Action indicates that claims 12-24 are allowed and that claims 1-11 are rejected. However, in contradiction of the "Summary" portion, the "Detailed Action" portion indicates that claims 1-12 and 1-19 are rejected on separate bases, and that only claims 17-24 have been allowed. Clarification is requested.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph and claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph in view of the phrase "subscriber-independent address". Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested in view of amendments to the claims as set forth above.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Hartmaier (US 6,304,753). It is noted that it is unclear what specifically the Office Action alleges is taught by Hartmaier with respect to the present claims. In the third paragraph on page 4, the Office Action acknowledges that the prior art does not teach determining an address addressable by an alternative network and associated with a wireless service. Then, in the fourth paragraph on page 4, the Office Action merely repeats a portion of claim 1 as originally filed ("transferring information between the subscriber and the wireless service using the determined alternative network address") and appends, parenthetically, "Tip address used for routing over data network." Notwithstanding, for purposes of advancing this application, the Applicant respectfully submits that Hartmaier fails to support the asserted rejection for at least the reason that it does not teach or suggest determining, at a service node, an address communicable with by an alternative network and associated with a wireless service, the address supporting the wireless service for a plurality of subscriber devices.

The Hartmaier disclosure relates to registering a mobile unit with a data network such as the Internet by assigning the mobile unit a TIP (temporary IP) address while it is registered with a given MSC (mobile switching center). The mobile unit further has a permanent IP (PIP) address that identifies it to the data network. The mobile unit may request services from the data network, and the data

network routes packet data to the mobile unit in response to the request via the TIP and PIP (see col. 6, lines 35 et seq.).

Each mobile unit is assigned a unique PIP and TIP address pair; there is a strictly one-to-one correlation of PIP and TIP address pairs to mobile units. See Hartmaier, col. 4, lines 29 and 30: "The PIP address uniquely identifies a mobile unit to the data network 140." Further, see Hartmaier, col. 4, lines 65-67 to col. 5, lines 1-4: "Assume that MSC 120 has 100 TIP addresses available to assign to the mobile units which it is providing service to. In such a case, the TIP address table will have 100 records, one record for each TIP address. If there is no ESN/MIN pair in fields 402 and 404 respectively of a record, then the TIP address in field 406 of that record is available to be assigned to a mobile unit." Since an ESN uniquely identifies a mobile unit (col. 4, lines 6-8), the latter sentence of the quoted passage clearly shows that each TIP is uniquely associated with a specific mobile unit.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in claim 1, an address communicable with by an alternative network and associated with a wireless service supports the wireless service for a plurality of subscriber devices. More specifically, the address corresponds to an MSC, not a subscriber, and is used by the MSC in support of a service or services for subscribers in general. See, for example, the present specification at page 6, lines 12-13: "... service information could instead be carried via the IP network to an IP address for MSC 100"; and the paragraph bridging lines 6 and 7: "... the S-MSC ... can designate to the HLR an IP network address ... at which the serving MSC can receive information to support the providing of this service to any mobile station with which it is in communication." Thus, the arrangement according to the present invention may be more efficient than that described in Hartmaier, since it does not require the complicated, subscriber-specific registration process described in Hartmaier.

In view of the above, claim 1 is allowable over Hartmaier. Claim 2, since it incorporates the limitations of claim 1 by dependency, is therefore likewise allowable for at least the reasons discussed in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Billstrom et al. (US 5,590,133) (hereinafter, "Billstrom"). However, the admitted prior art and Billstrom fail to support the asserted rejection for at least the reason that neither the admitted prior art nor Billstrom teach or suggest determining, at a service node, an address communicable with by an alternative network and associated with a wireless service, the address supporting the wireless service for a plurality of subscriber devices, as required by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the admitted prior art and Billstrom. Claims 2-4 and claims 6-7, as claims dependent on claim 1, are therefore likewise allowable over the admitted prior art and Billstrom for at least the reasons discussed in connection with claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-7 as unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Billstrom is therefore respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: JAN. 22, 2004

By: 

William E. Curry

Reg. No. 43,572

KENYON & KENYON  
1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Tel: (202) 220-4200  
Fax: (202) 220-4201